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News Release

For Immediate Release

May 26, 2006

Contacts: Bruce Kranz 530/ 889-4010 Roger Canfield 916/ 961-6718

Kranz Applauds Wildfire Recovery Bill

COLFAX—Bruce Kranz, Placer County Supervisor got some good news last week. - The House of Representatives passed H.R. 4200, the *Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act of 2005* (FERRA), sponsored by Reps. Greg Walden (R-Ore.), Brian Baird (D-Wash.) and Stephanie Herseth (D-S.D.), with overwhelmingly bipartisan support on a vote of 243 to 182.

“This is significant progress. If the Senate passes a companion measure S2079, we can move closer to the day when we can recover from and prevent catastrophic wildfires.”

S. 2079, “Forests for Future Generations Act” is sponsored by Sen. Gordon Smith and has six cosponsors, but still needs Democrat support.

Both bills seek to rehab forests after catastrophic events - fires, storms or insect epidemics – using scientific methods. The bills have wide support from foresters, scientists, firefighters, local government officials, and private landowners, but face some environmental opposition. The bills allow quicker cleanup without bypassing environmental laws.

“I am committed to the prevention of catastrophic wildfire threats to our mountain communities and to our environment, including the clarity of Lake Tahoe,” said Kranz who has made several trips to Washington to lobby for HR 4200 and S 2079.

"HR 4200 gives foresters and firefighters the resources and authority to act expeditiously. It reduces red tape, but preserves timely environmental review while moving rapidly toward cleanup and restoration after a wildfire.

Supervisor Kranz represents the Placer County communities of Alpine Meadows, Alta, Applegate, Blue Canyon, Bowman, Carnelian Bay, Christian Valley, Colfax, Dutch Flat,, Foresthill, Homewood, Immigrant Gap, Iowa Hill, Kings Beach, Martis Valley, Meadow Vista, North Auburn, North Star, Royal Gorge, Serene Lakes, Squaw Valley, Tahoe City, Tahoe Vista and Weimar



Mr. Kranz goes to Washington: Supervisor delves deeper into biomass for Tahoe

Alanna Lungren

April 19, 2006

Little more than one year into Placer County Supervisor's Bruce Kranz's first year in office, the issue of catastrophic wildfire in the Tahoe Basin remains a persistent agenda item for Kranz. One way that Kranz is suggesting the threat be reduced and potentially eradicated, is the creation of a biomass fermentation plant, ideally he said, at the site of the closed landfill and current transfer station at Cabin Creek, off Highway 89.

"My view is what we have to do with catastrophic wildfire is involve the private sector and involve the biomass industry," explained Kranz. "Turn [biomass] into fuel."

Because of fervent fire suppression in the 100 years after Tahoe's Comstock era in the mid-1800s, the forests around the lake are overgrown and overloaded with ground fuel, constituting what experts describe as a tinderbox. Currently, the U.S. Forest Service, the local fire protection districts, California Department of Forestry and the state parks battle the threat of wildfire through prescribed burns and thinning techniques. But Kranz suggests that in addition to these methods already in place, the combination of a biomass plant would increase efficiency in the restoration of Tahoe's forests and could be financially feasible through grants or earmarks.

The plant that Kranz favored would be a fermentation plant that produced a gas that could be "captured," as Kranz stated, as opposed to a biomass burning plant. The gases captured could be used in place of natural gas that Tahoe's buses currently run on, or the energy product could be sold, stated Kranz.

"If you got [UC Davis and Sacramento State] scientists out there doing research," stated Kranz referring to the experts involved with the push for a biomass plant, "You can make a go at this."

In the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Draft Fuel Reduction and Forest Restoration Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin, released in February of this year, "A total of 4,330 acres would be burned annually in the Lake Tahoe Basin," with an estimated cost per acre burned ranging from \$400 to \$10,000.

Though Kranz states that they do not know definitively about cost of a biomass plant, he's reported cooperation and interest in the project between his office and the Department of Energy's Office of Biomass, the Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment in the Department of Agriculture and the House Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee, as well as the offices of Sens. Diane Feinstein (D-CA), John Ensign (R-NV), Gordon Smith (R-OR), Rep. John Doolittle (R-Roseville) and House Resources Committee Chairman Rep. Richard Pombo (R-Tracy).

What is known about a potential biomass plant somewhere on the North Shore is that a location more than 40 miles away from the source of biomass collection would put the cost too high. Carson City Renewable, an energy company in Northern Nevada, currently takes trees and brush collected from forests during thinning and then processes the woody material and shrub to create a seed-ground spread, used to encourage vegetation growth. Kranz said he is also in discussion with the Nevada energy company to see if a way exists to economically utilize their services as a solution to hauling out piled forest fuels around Lake Tahoe.

News Release

For Immediate Release

April 19, 2006

Contacts: Bruce Kranz 530/ 889-4010

Roger Canfield 916/ 961-6718

Forest Service Supports Biomass Use of Hazardous Forest Fuels

Placer County Efforts Showing Progress

COLFAX- Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz has received support from the regional office of the U.S. Forestry Service for Placer County's efforts to make economical use of forest fuels created by wildfires and cleanup around forest communities.

"I'm happy that we are making progress on trying to find a more economical means of protecting our communities, our wildlife and our water from devastating wildfires. In some cases costs to clean up dead trees and brush are prohibitive for the federal government as well as for hard pressed local communities," said Kranz.

In a letter to Kranz, Bernard Weingardt, Regional Forester, of the Regional Office of the U.S Forest Service, said, "I am writing to express my support for the concepts put forth in your ...Auburn Journal article... We clearly share common interests in reducing hazardous fuels around forest communities, and in doing so in the most environmentally sensitive and economically viable means possible. ...{n}ew biomass facilities offers the possibility of new markets for the low value by products of fuels reduction."

Kranz has led a Placer County effort to consider finding energy producing uses of fire and insect damaged trees and brush. It's called biomass and can be burned or fermented into ethanol.

"Clean ups can prevent future catastrophic wildfires, save lives, property and habitat for fish and wildlife, but they are expensive," said Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz.

Kranz uses the example of the 2,500-acre Gap Fire off Interstate 80 near Emigrant Gap to make his points.

"According to the studies of Forest Supervisor, Steve Eubanks, half the fire was on private property and was cleaned up at a profit from salvageable trees in two months. On burned public lands trees were left to rot and insects causing a \$1.35 million loss and requiring the spending of \$739,000 in taxpayers money."

In a recent action the Agricultural Committee of the House of Representatives added a provision for the Forest Service to consider biomass for energy production to HR 4200 seeking reduce delays in cleanups after wildfires. That bill's sponsors are asking House leadership to bring the bill to a vote in May or June

News Release

For Immediate Release April 6, 2006
Contacts: Bruce Kranz 530/ 889-4010
Roger Canfield 916/ 961-6718

Wildfire Prevention Bill Passes Key Panel
Placer Sup. Kranz, cautiously optimistic

COLFAX- The House Resources Committee recently voted 25-13 to pass a measure designed to accelerate the removal and sale of sale of dead and damaged trees after a wildfire.

"HR 4200 will prevent future catastrophic wildfires, save lives, property and habitat for fish and wildlife," said Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz. Kranz gave the example of the 2,500-acre Gap Fire off Interstate 80 near Emigrant Gap.

"Half the fire was on private property and was cleaned up at a profit from salvageable trees in two months. On burned public lands trees were left to rot and insects causing a \$1.35 million loss and requiring the spending of \$739,000 in taxpayers money."

"The Gap Fire work could have paid for itself, but for bureaucratic and environmental delays.' And if we allow the Forest Service to do its job, taxpayers are off the hook too," said Kranz.

Kranz said, "Faster cleanup will allow harvesting salvageable timber, provide revenue to pay for replanting trees, and save taxpayers money." Kranz said it might also provide future opportunities for use of woody waste for energy production. The measure seeks to quickly restore burned forests to health, assist in the recovery of non-federal forests and revitalize the Forest Service experimental forests.

Kranz led Placer County efforts to formally support the measure called the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act, authored by Rep. Greg Walden, (R-ORE) whose district in Oregon also suffers from wildfires.

The measure passed out of House committee on Resources on March 29 with votes to spare. It still must pass two more panels, House Agriculture and House Transportation and Infrastructure before reaching the floor of the House sometime in May.

"I do not foresee any difficulties. The bill enjoys 147 co-sponsors in the House. That's a good sign. There may be problems in the Senate," said Kranz.

A companion measure S 2079 is authored by Sen. Gordon Smith, (R-ORE). Both measures follow on the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, also dealing with severe forest conditions in a timelier manner.

For immediate release

March 13, 2006

**Contact: Robert Miller, 530-889-4080, or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515**

SUPERVISOR KRANZ HOLDS COMMUNITY FORUM;
SHERIFF ED BONNER TO SPEAK

Sheriff Ed Bonner will be the guest speaker at a community forum sponsored by Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz that will be held in the Resort at Squaw Creek Tuesday, March 21.

The forum will start at 6 p.m. The resort is located at 400 Squaw Creek Road in Olympic Valley.

The public is invited to attend, and refreshments will be served.

For more information about the forum, please contact Rick Brown, Supervisor Kranz's Tahoe field deputy, at 530-906-7201 or call the Board of Supervisors office at 530-889-4010.

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For immediate release**Feb. 14, 2006****Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012, or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515****COUNTY TO HELP FUND ADDRESS, STREET SIGNS ON PRIVATE ROADS**

Placer County is teaming up with the public and local fire agencies to help make sure homes on private roads are easier to find during emergencies.

The focus of the effort is to ensure that street signs clearly identify where private roads are located and code-compliant address signs clearly show where residences are to be found along private roads.

Recently, the county Board of Supervisors agreed to fund the program with \$122,500 the county is scheduled to receive from the federal government. The funds will be used to subsidize the cost of street and address signs.

“Our goal is to place 3,500 address signs in our unincorporated areas of Placer County,” explained Supervisor Bruce Kranz. “These signs can make the difference between life and death if a person suffers a medical emergency like a heart attack. They will enable emergency personnel to find your home even more quickly.”

“Proper signs can significantly reduce the amount of time firefighters need to locate a house fire,” Supervisor Jim Holmes said.

“Reaching the scene more quickly increases the likelihood they will be able to save a house, and keep the fire from spreading to nearby houses or forestland.”

Agencies that are interested in working with Placer County on the program include:

The Foresthill, Newcastle, Penryn, Placer Hills, Placer Consolidated, and North Lake Tahoe fire protection districts;

The Iowa Hill fire brigade and;

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, which staffs the Placer County Fire Department under contract with the county.

In the foothills, many private roads and houses located on private roads currently do not have adequate signs, making it difficult for emergency workers to quickly locate addresses.

“The address signs are an important component to reduce responses not only for fires, but, equally, for medical-aid calls,” said CDF Battalion Chief Jeff Brand.

“Signage is critical in a life-and-death situation,” added Chief Randy Smith of the Placer Consolidated Fire Protection District.

The latter emphasized that having code-compliant signs can be particularly critical during large wildfires, because fire crews from outside the area typically aren’t familiar with local private roads and may not have the most up-to-date maps.

Smith reported that many address signs along private roads are not visible at night because they are not made with reflective materials.

“Every second we delay is critical,” said Fire Chief Ian Gow of the Placer Hills Fire Protection District.

He said the lack of adequate signs on private roads is a common problem in the foothills. “The issue happens to us on a daily basis,” he explained.

In many cases, homeowners are unaware their address signs are inadequate, do not know where to purchase code-compliant signs or balk at the cost of buying approved signs.

Smith said several local fire districts have programs to help residents on private roads acquire proper signs.

For more information on the program, contact participating fire agencies.

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For immediate release

Feb. 3, 2006

**Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012, or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515**

COUNTY TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR TRPA RESIDENTIAL ALLOCATIONS

Placer County will start accepting applications Friday, Feb. 10 for 50 residential building permits allocated to it this year by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

The application period will run from 8 a.m. Feb. 10 to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17.

Applications will be accepted at the county's administrative offices at 565 West Lake Blvd. in Tahoe City.

If the county receives more than 50 applications, the Building Department will hold a drawing at 10 a.m. Feb. 28 to determine who receives allocations. The county will create a waiting list for applicants who fail to get allocations in case people with allocations don't proceed with their projects.

On Jan. 24, the county Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the timeline for receiving applications and distributing the residential allocations.

A TRPA housing allocation typically is required in the Tahoe Basin before a property owner can receive a building permit for a new home.

Placer County Chief Building Official Bill Schulze told the board the county held a drawing last year because it received more applications than allocations, but that was the first time it needed a drawing in about 10 years.

Each year, TRPA decides how many new houses should be allocated and distributes them to five local governments that lie alongside Lake Tahoe: Placer and El Dorado counties in California, Douglas and Washoe counties in Nevada and the city of South Lake Tahoe. Their building departments are responsible for distributing allocations to applicants who want to construct housing.

In 2002, TRPA adopted a new system that links the number of new house allocated to environmental improvements in the basin.

At the Jan. 24 meeting, Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz, the board member who represents North Lake Tahoe, thanked county staff for working with the TRPA to increase the number of allocations earmarked for Placer County this year.

"Our interaction with TRPA has never been better- this relationship has helped us get our allocation increased from 43 to 50," Supervisor Kranz said. "Working with TRPA regarding this process, we also will be able to issue allocations three months earlier than last year. Discussions with building interests and property owners have convinced me that this timing is critical to take advantage of the entire construction season."

Staff from the Building, Planning and Public Works departments and County Executive Office worked to demonstrate Placer County had made greater-than-realized progress on environmental projects that will help improve air and water quality in the Tahoe Basin and convince TRPA that the county's allocation should be raised to 50 from the 43 recommended earlier.

For more information about the county's allocation process, call the Building Department's Tahoe City staff at 530-581-6200.

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For immediate release**Jan. 27, 2006****Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012, or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515****BOARD AWARDS TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDS FOR TAHOE PROJECTS**

The Placer County Board of Supervisors awarded \$275,000 recently to help fund the fourth phase of the Lakeside Bike Trail in Tahoe City.

The trail funding is part of a \$306,100 funding package approved by the board at its Jan. 10 meeting.

The package includes \$25,000 for the Squaw Valley Institute to develop a long-term financial plan and \$6,100 for maintenance of a portable stage that nonprofit groups use for community events throughout North Lake Tahoe.

The board voted unanimously to approve funding for the three projects, acting upon a recommendation from the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association.

The funding source is transient occupancy tax revenue collected by the county at North Lake Tahoe. The tax is a surcharge paid by people who rent rooms in hotels, motels and other lodging establishments.

“Use of the transient occupancy tax to accommodate residents and visitors to the North Tahoe region only makes sense,” said Supervisor Bruce Kranz, the board member who represents North Lake Tahoe. “It’s reinvesting in those services and attractions that help make Lake Tahoe such a remarkable place to visit.”

In 1996, North Lake Tahoe voters approved a small increase in the tax to help fund local infrastructure, transportation, visitor-service and marketing programs.

The \$306,100 approved by the board Jan. 10 will be allocated to the Resort Association for the three projects.

Managed by the Tahoe City Public Utility District, the Lakeside Trail has become a public promenade used by bicyclists, pedestrians and others who simply want to get a good look at the lake.

Work on phase four is scheduled to get under way this year. It will run from the east end of Commons Beach to Grove Street.

The public utility district expects the total cost of phase-four work to be more than \$1.5 million. The California Tahoe Land Conservancy is contributing more than \$890,000 to the project.

In October, the county Board of Supervisors allocated \$250,000 in county redevelopment funds for lighting that will be installed along the new section of trail. The lighting will make the trail more attractive for bicyclist and pedestrian use into the evening hours.

The Squaw Valley Institute received \$50,000 in transient occupancy tax revenue when it was formed three years ago. Its main goal is to develop cultural events that will broaden Squaw Valley’s array of visitor attractions, bring in overnight visitors during off-peak times and attract types of visitors who in the past haven’t frequented Squaw Valley.

Since its creation, the institute has held 45 events.

Placer County purchased the portage stage with transient occupancy tax revenue in the early 1990s and sold it to the Tahoe City Public Utility District in 2003 after declaring it to be surplus property.

Since then, nonprofit groups have used the stage for musical and other types of events in Tahoe City, Northstar, Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows and West End Beach in Truckee.

The \$6,100 is needed to do routine maintenance and make repairs that include replacing the roof and repairing the stage’s flooring.

For immediate release

Jan. 24, 2005

Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012 or

Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515

COUNTY LOOKING TO FILL VACANCIES ON MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

Placer County is accepting applications from community members interested in serving on municipal advisory councils that represent Meadow Vista, Foresthill and unincorporated areas near Colfax.

Commonly known as MACs, the county's 13 advisory councils make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on issues of public interest in unincorporated areas. MAC members are unpaid volunteers charged with gathering public comment on a range of topics, including land use, public works, recreation, law enforcement and public health and safety.

MACs also hear reports from fire, law enforcement and other public agencies as requested, and residents often bring items of interest to MACs.

At the request of new 5th District Supervisor Bruce Kranz, the Board of Supervisors agreed Jan. 18 to have all members of MACs in his district vacate their positions immediately. The county is now seeking applications from community members interested in filling the vacancies for two-year terms. People who held the vacated positions are welcome to reapply.

The 5th District stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

"This change will help ensure a positive working relationship between an incoming supervisor and the municipal advisory councils. That's important so that community views are most effectively communicated to the Board of Supervisors, and vice versa," Supervisor Kranz explained.

"I welcome all who have been serving on a MAC to reapply and am glad that many have already done so. Additionally, this may be a good chance for new, talented individuals to get involved in their community."

The seven-member Meadow Vista MAC normally meets at 7:15 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month in Placer Hills School.

The Foresthill Forum Advisory Council has seven members and generally meets at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall.

The Weimar-Applegate-Colfax MAC is a seven-member body that meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Colfax Memorial Hall.

A MAC member must be a property owner or business owner or manager within the area served by the MAC.

For application forms or more information, call the Clerk of the Board's Office at 530-889-4020.

Application forms also are available on the county's Internet web site at www.placer.ca.gov. To get an online application, click on the icon for forms, permits and applications near the top of the county's home page and, when the new page appears, click on the icon for commission and committee applications at the right side of the page.

Completed applications should be delivered to the Clerk of the Board's Office in person, by mail or by fax. The office is located at 175 Fulweiler Ave. in Auburn.

The mailing address is 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603. The fax number is 530-889-4099.

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For immediate release

Jan. 23, 2006

**Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012, or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515**

SUPERVISOR KRANZ TO HOST COFFEE KLATCH IN FORESTHILL FEB. 17

Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz will be in Foresthill Friday, Feb. 17 to meet with constituents.

The supervisor will host an informal coffee klatch from 8 to 9 a.m. at Mt. Club La Cocina, 24620 Main St.

Appointments aren't necessary.

The supervisor holds coffee klatches in Foresthill on the third Friday of each month to hear from residents about what's going on in their neighborhoods and how they feel about county issues.

Supervisor Kranz represents the 5th District, which stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

For more information about the Feb. 17 meeting, call the Board of Supervisors office at 530-889-4010.

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For immediate release

Jan. 23, 2006

**Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012, or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515**

SUPERVISOR KRANZ TO MEET WITH CONSTITUENTS IN AUBURN FRIDAY

Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz will meet with constituents during a coffee klatch to be held in Auburn Friday, Jan. 27.

The meeting will take place from 8 to 9 a.m. at Bagel Junction, 13332 Lincoln Way.

Appointments aren't necessary.

The supervisor holds coffee klatches at Bagel Junction from 8 to 9 a.m. on the fourth Friday of each month to hear from residents about what's going on in their neighborhoods and how they feel about county issues.

Supervisor Kranz represents the 5th District, which stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

For more information about the Jan. 27 meeting, call the Board of Supervisors office at 530-889-4010.

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For immediate release

January 18, 2006

Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012 or Robert Miller, 530-889-4080

BILL SANTUCCI ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AUBURN, CALIF – The Placer County Board of Supervisors recently elected First District Supervisor Bill Santucci as its Chairman for 2006. District 5 Supervisor Bruce Kranz was elected vice-chairman. Both officers were confirmed by unanimous votes.

Santucci's first act as chairman was to acknowledge his predecessor, District 2 Supervisor Robert Weygandt.

"For those people who wanted to address the Board, you gave them the opportunity to do that," Santucci said of Weygandt. "You treated them with dignity and respect. The public appreciated that and so did we."

"Supervisor Santucci has had a long and distinguished career in public service. The citizens of District 1 and Placer County have been well represented," said District 3 Supervisor Jim Holmes, who nominated Santucci for the Chairmanship. "While he has always been concerned with the welfare of Placer County, he has never forgotten the individual citizen who needed his help."

Santucci, who's First District includes portions of Roseville, said he hopes to keep moving the major projects already in the review process. These projects include two universities, including a state university, and three community developments in western Placer County.

Supervisor Santucci took office in 1995. Running unopposed in 1998 and 2002, he was re-elected to additional four-year terms. He has twice previously served as Board Chair. The lifelong Roseville resident worked for Pacific Gas & Electric, McClellan Field and 20 years at the Aerojet General Liquid Rocket Company. After that, he ran a family business for 13 years.

Before becoming a County Supervisor, Santucci served on and chaired both the Roseville Project Review Committee and the Roseville Planning Commission. He also served for a year on Roseville's Personnel Board. He was first appointed to the Roseville City Council, and then elected for two terms, serving four years as mayor.

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For immediate release

January 10, 2006

Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012 or Robert Miller, 530-889-4080

EIGHT PLACER COUNTY RESIDENTS HONORED IN CITIZENS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

AUBURN, CALIF – The Placer County Board of Supervisors today honored eight citizens with the County’s Commemorative Coin Program in recognition of their acts of heroism, longstanding community service or exceptional acts that have dramatically improved or affected the lives of others.

The 2005 recipients are:

John Piches, District 1, Recognized by Supervisor Bill Santucci;
George Robert Scherer and Stephen Reed Scherer, District 2, Recognized by Supervisor Robert Weygandt;
Harriet White and Bob Lundin, District 3, Recognized by Supervisor Jim Holmes;
Virg Anderson and Steve Nash, District 4, Recognized by Supervisor Ted Gaines; and
Norma Schwartz, District 5, Recognized by Supervisor Bruce Kranz.

The program was instituted by the Board in 2002 at the request of Supervisor Gaines and, with today’s recipients has recognized a total of 27 citizens. Each supervisor is given the opportunity to award a coin to one or more citizen each year who meet one or more of the following criteria:

Offered contribution of longstanding services to Placer County or to a resident;
Sacrificed a combination of time and talent to Placer County or a resident;
Went beyond the call of duty to save a life;
Voluntarily performed an act of heroism and was not paid for the act;
Participated in a rarely told or reported feat;
Dramatically improved or affected a life.

John Piches, District 1

John is a life-long Roseville resident and has for decades made innumerable contributions to his community. He was instrumental in securing land and a general obligation bond to build Roseville’s first community hospital. He served on the Roseville High School’s Board of Trustees and played a major role in the success of the school’s athletic program and on-the-job work experience program. John also served as Chairman of a local committee to put lights on the Roseville High School football field. He was General Chairman of Roseville’s 100-year anniversary celebration and formed the group that saved Roseville’s old library. As a World War II Veteran and 56-year American Legion Member, he currently serves on the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall Board, which he has done for the past 11 years.

Supervisor Santucci said of John Piches: “I have the privilege this morning of honoring John Piches for his many contributions to the Roseville community. John has helped shape the face of Roseville and has been instrumental in helping preserve the heritage of our community.”

George Robert Scherer and Stephen Reed Scherer, District 2

Robert and Reed are being awarded the Placer County Commemorative Coin Award for actions they took in July of 2004 while attempting to save the life of their father. These two Boy Scouts, members of Troop 29 out of Rocklin, performed CPR on their father in July, 2004, after he suffered a heart attack. While their father later succumbed to the effects of the heart attack, their training and preparation allowed them to keep their father alive until emergency medical assistance arrived. For their heroism, these two teens were both also recipients in 2005 of the National Court of Honor’s Heroism Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

Supervisor Weygandt said of Rob and Reed Scherer: “It is a real honor for me to recognize their efforts. I can’t imagine going through anything more difficult than that. Their training with the Scouts and their reaction under incredibly challenging circumstances provide me the opportunity to give that recognition.”

Bob Lundin, District 3

A Loomis resident since 1987, Bob was the first chair of the Horseshoe Bar Municipal Advisory Council, which was formed in 1989. Bob has worked tirelessly in balancing the desires of the development community with the importance of protecting the rural nature of

the community. He left the MAC for an appointment to the Placer County Planning Commission, and when his tenure with the Commission ended, Bob returned to the MAC until his recent retirement. Bob was instrumental in creating rural design guidelines and has been active in mentoring others to become involved in their community.

Supervisor Holmes said of Bob Lundin: “Bob Lundin is a relatively new member of Placer County, having moved here in 1987. But he didn’t just move here and sit around; he got busy.”

Harriet White, District 3

Harriet has been active in many organizations in Placer County. In addition to serving two terms as a member of the Board of Supervisors from 1996 to 2004, Harriet has served the aging population by membership on the Commission on Aging, Area 4 Agency on Aging and Older Adult Advisory Commission. She was a member of the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency and involved in the Bell Road widening project. She ably represented Placer through the National Association of Counties, Regional Council of Rural Counties and the California State Association of Counties. She has also been active in the issues of mobile/manufactured homes as related to constituents in Placer County, involved in the Auburn 20/20 Visioning Project, the Highway 49 safety improvements and worked on many community plan updates.

Supervisor Holmes will present Harriet White with her award at a meeting later in the year, as she was out of town for this morning’s meeting.

Virg Anderson, Steve Nash, District 4

Virg Anderson serves on the Granite Bay Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) and is the vice-chair of the Granite Bay MAC Park Committee. As a member of the Sunrise Park and Recreation District staff, Virg has brought a wealth of expertise and counsel that has been invaluable to the design and construction process of our parks. As a Boy Scout Scoutmaster of over 27 years, Virg organized several work days and Eagle Scout projects to improve Granite Bay’s parks. His scout troop planted flowers and shrubs, installed an irrigation system, and planted numerous trees in both Granite Bay Community Park and Feist Park.

Steve Nash currently serves as a representative of the Granite Bay Municipal Advisory Council and the Granite Bay MAC Park Committee and is co-chair of the Feist Park Construction Task Force. The Construction Task Force has provided input to the County on construction needs at Feist Park and has helped raise funds and donations of labor for construction of the park. Steve and his wife, Renee, have donated thousands of dollars for construction of new parks in Granite Bay. In 2001, Steve and Renee paid over \$14,000 for the purchase and installation of a commercial tot lot playground at Treelake Park. Later, they donated \$10,000 to the County for construction of Granite Bay Community Park. Most recently, Steve and Renee donated \$30,000 for construction of one of the new baseball diamonds at Feist Park. The baseball diamond now bears the name, “Nash Field”.

Supervisor Gaines recognized Virg Anderson and Steve Nash with the following comments: “Twelve years ago, the community of Granite Bay had a blossoming Little League and youth soccer program, but was sadly lacking in facilities to accommodate the eager players. Thankfully, due to the vision and tenacity of Placer County, Steve Nash and Virg Anderson, Granite Bay Community Park is now complete and Ronald L. Feist Park is scheduled for a grand opening in the spring of 2006.”

Norma Schwartz, District 5

Norma has become an institution on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe for than two decades as a member of the Board of Directors of the North Tahoe Public Utility District. Her receipt of this award stems from her dedicated civic contributions to the Lake Tahoe community. Norma was first appointed to the Board in 1977 when the then-director’s seat became vacant. Her tenure with the District is a record in the history of the NTPUD. Norma has had the distinction of being noted for cost-saving moves for the District. Norma has also served as the Executive Director of the North Tahoe Business Association.

Supervisor Kranz said of Norma Schwartz: “Norma is affectionately known as the mayor of the Tahoe Basin. She’s a very outspoken advocate for Lake Tahoe and has been for many years.”

Photographs are available.

For immediate release

Jan. 10, 2005

**Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012, or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515**

SUPERVISOR KRANZ TO HOST COFFEE KLATCH IN COLFAX FRIDAY

Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz will host an informal coffee klatch in Colfax Friday, Jan. 13 to discuss county issues with constituents.

The meeting will take place from 8 to 9 a.m. at Starbucks Coffee, 424 S. Auburn St.

Appointments aren't necessary.

"There will be no agenda," Supervisor Kranz said. "I'm just interested in hearing from residents about what's going on in their neighborhoods and how they feel about county issues."

The supervisor holds coffee klatches in Colfax on the second Friday of each month at the 424 S. Auburn St. Starbucks.

Supervisor Kranz represents the 5th District, which stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

For more information about the Jan. 13 meeting, call the Board of Supervisors office at 530-889-4010.

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For immediate release

Jan. 10, 2006

**Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012, or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515**

SUPERVISOR KRANZ TO HOST COFFEE KLATCH IN FORESTHILL JAN. 20

Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz will be in Foresthill Friday, Jan. 20 to meet with constituents.

The supervisor will host an informal coffee klatch from 8 to 9 a.m. at Mt. Club La Cocina, 24620 Main St.

Appointments aren't necessary.

The supervisor holds coffee klatches in Foresthill on the third Friday of each month to hear from residents about what's going on in their neighborhoods and how they feel about county issues.

Supervisor Kranz represents the 5th District, which stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

For more information about the Jan. 20 meeting, call the Board of Supervisors office at 530-889-4010.

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For immediate release

Nov. 1, 2005

**Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012, or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515**

BOARD ALLOCATES REDEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR SEVERAL PROJECTS

The Placer County Board of Supervisors agreed Oct. 25 to help fund phase four of the Tahoe City Lakeside Bike Trail and to boost financial support for Main Street Programs in Kings Beach and Tahoe City.

At the meeting, the board also approved hiring an architectural firm to do design work for a three-level parking garage to be built at the Tahoe City Marina.

In each case, funding is being provided by the county redevelopment agency as part of its efforts to revitalize the downtown business districts of Tahoe City, Kings Beach and Tahoe Vista.

Supervisor Bruce Kranz, the board member who represents North Lake Tahoe, said he's pleased the County, business associations, public utility districts and North Lake Tahoe Resort Association are working so well together.

"I think we're moving along just great," he said.

In Tahoe City, the redevelopment agency has participated in the downtown sidewalk project, Commons Beach Park improvements, the Lake Tahoe Dam Outlet Improvement Project at Fanny Bridge and several business façade remodels.

In Kings Beach and Tahoe Vista, agency activities include work on three parking lot projects, planning for sidewalk and streetscape improvements in Kings Beach, housing-rehabilitation loans, business façade-improvement loans, and the demolition of a dilapidated motel along North Lake Boulevard.

Managed by the Tahoe City Public Utility District, the Lakeside Trail has become a public promenade used by bicyclists, pedestrians and others who simply want to get a good look at the lake.

Work on phase four is scheduled to get under way next year. It will connect the Outlet plaza to Commons Beach and extend the existing Commons Beach trail to Grove Street.

The public utility district expects the total cost of phase-four work to be more than \$1.2 million. The California Tahoe Land Conservancy is contributing more than \$890,000 to the project.

The \$250,000 from the county redevelopment agency will pay to install lighting along the new section of trail, which will make the trail more attractive for bike and pedestrian use into the evening hours.

The agency is fully funding the marina parking garage. It will have about 134 new parking spaces.

Preliminary estimates peg construction costs at \$5.5 million and total project costs at almost \$8.2 million.

The Main Street Programs seek to revitalize the traditional commercial districts in Tahoe City and Kings Beach. At the Oct. 25 meeting, the Board of Supervisors agreed to increase funding for each program to \$60,000 in redevelopment funds over 12 months.

The North Tahoe Business Association created the Main Street Program for Kings Beach and Tahoe Vista to help property and business owners create a community identity through improvements in four areas: community design, publicity of events, economic restructuring and downtown development.

The association has sponsored many activities that contribute to the economic well-being of the two communities, including business education workshops, a farmer's market, arts and crafts fairs, a fine arts fair and holiday celebrations.

Created in 2004, the Tahoe City Downtown Association is implementing the Main Street Program in its community. The association supports the Lakeside Summer Concert Services, a farmer's market, Wildlife Wednesdays, the Tahoe Talks lecture series and monthly First Friday dining and shopping promotions.

For immediate release

Oct. 17, 2005

**Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012, or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515**

STATE OFFICIAL TO SPEAK AT OCT. 25 FORUM SPONSORED BY SUPERVISOR KRANZ

California Secretary of State Bruce McPherson will be the keynote speaker at a community forum sponsored by Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz that will be held in Tahoe City Tuesday, Oct. 25.

The forum will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Granlibakken Conference Center, 725 Granlibakken Road.

The public is invited to attend. Appetizers will be served.

McPherson became California's 30th secretary of state on March 30, 2005 after being nominated by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and being confirmed unanimously by both the Assembly and state Senate. From Santa Cruz, he served in the Assembly from 1993-96 and the state Senate from 1996 until he was termed out at the end of his second term in 2004.

For more information about the Oct. 25 community forum, please contact Rick Brown, Supervisor Kranz's Tahoe field deputy, at 530-906-7201 or call the Board of Supervisors office at 530-889-4010.

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For immediate release

Sept. 14, 2005

**Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012, or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515**

**CHP TO RESUME HAVING ONE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR FORESTHILL, COUNTY SUPERVISOR KRANZ THANKS
STATE AGENCY FOR ITS DECISION**

Starting Jan. 1, the California Highway Patrol plans to once again assign one officer to be responsible for patrolling county roads in the Foresthill area.

CHP Assistant Commissioner Arthur Anderson announced the decision in a recent letter to Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz. At an earlier meeting with Anderson, Kranz had asked the CHP to consider assigning an officer to Foresthill.

“As a result of your request, we have determined that an officer within this community would be a benefit for the department and the community,” Anderson told Kranz in the letter.

“On behalf of the Foresthill community, I’d like to thank the CHP for recognizing our traffic and speeding problems on the Foresthill Divide,” Supervisor Kranz said. “The CHP continues to be a great partner in solving our traffic problems countywide.”

Capt. Rick Ward, the CHP’s commander in the Newcastle area, said he had to suspend the practice of having one officer responsible for Foresthill early this year because of staffing constraints resulting from the state budget crisis.

Now, CHP officers share patrol duties in the Foresthill area.

Ward said having one officer responsible for Foresthill has been effective in the past, crediting it with reducing the number of traffic accidents and increasing compliance with traffic laws.

Ward currently has 34 officers to patrol approximately 1,100 miles of highways and county roads 24 hours per day, seven days per week. He commands an area that stretches from Colfax to the Placer-Sacramento county line.

The Newcastle area would need seven additional officers to be at full strength. Ward will get two new officers soon, and one will be assigned to Foresthill.

The latter won’t assume full-time responsibility for Foresthill until Jan. 1.

Ward said he plans to have the new officer take over his new duties in phases, saying the officer will start attending meeting of the Foresthill Forum later this year. The Foresthill Forum is a seven-member body that advises the county Board of Supervisors on issues related to Foresthill.

Ward credits Kranz with keeping the need to have one CHP officer responsible for patrolling the community on everyone’s minds.

“Bruce saw that was a major concern for the Foresthill residents,” Ward said.

“I’m very thankful for Bruce’s support.”

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For immediate release

August 1, 2005

**Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012 or
Robert Miller 530-889-4080**

**PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS GIVES PRELIMINARY APPROVAL TO SIX FIRE DANGER
REDUCTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PROJECTS**

AUBURN, CA -- The Placer County Board of Supervisors has given preliminary approval to funding for six projects that will reduce fire danger countywide and improve emergency services in rural and wilderness areas of the county.

The total amount tentatively approved for the six projects is \$322,500 and is part of federal legislation passed in 2000 that provides predictable funding to rural counties like Placer. The projects will:

Develop a community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) for the Western Slope of the Sierra;
Create a program to conduct a defensible space inspection program for the unincorporated parts supervisorial districts 3 and 5;
Assist with the acquisition of private street and home signs for rural areas to ensure code-compliant address signs are in place;
Fund a fuels management project for the Dollar Point area of North Tahoe;
Assist with the funding of county search and rescue operations on federal lands; and
Provide funding for hiring of a fire mitigation coordinator and administrative assistance

“Protecting our communities from the very real threat of wildfire is a top priority for me,” said Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz, whose District 5 contains much of the county’s rural areas, including the North Tahoe portion of the county. “These six projects represent a critical first step toward protecting our citizens from the catastrophic effects of wildfire.”

With the board’s preliminary approval of these six projects in late June, a 45-day public comment period began. Funding of the projects would occur if the board gives final approval. The board is scheduled to revisit the project at a September meeting. Money for the projects comes from the county’s Forest Reserve Title III fund and will not affect the county general fund.

“I am pleased to be able to work with District 5 Supervisor Bruce Kranz in approving the funding for this very important countywide issue,” said District 3 Supervisor Jim Holmes, who has a long history of fire protection work. “The six projects listed will greatly help our citizens reduce the fire danger to their homes and properties. By protecting our natural areas from fire hazards we also protect our families, our wildlife, and we help to ensure water quality.”

Additional information on the six projects follows:

The CWPP will give the City of Colfax and Western Slope communities of Weimar, Applegate, and Meadow Vista a plan to reduce vegetation (fuels) on public and private lands, improve current defensible space compliance and develop criteria to continue these two activities in the future. This project would receive \$50,000.

Defensible space inspections will not only serve to improve compliance, but will also offer an opportunity to educate and motivate residents to improve wildlands fire safety. This is especially important in light of the increase this year in required defensible space around structures from 30 feet to 100 feet in rural areas. This project would receive \$35,000.

If emergency response personnel can more easily locate specific addresses they can lessen structure damage and prevent the spread of a fire from a structure to wildlands. For medical intervention, quick and accurate response can save lives and reduce the effects of injuries. This project would receive \$122,500.

The Dollar Point project will remove heavy fire fuels that could allow a fire to quickly move through the community. Such a fire would likely prevent suppression equipment from reaching burning structures. Given the fuel loads in this area and the prevalence of winds, this project is considered a top priority. This project would receive \$30,000.

Search and rescue operations on federal lands are currently unfunded. This funding would allow the sheriff’s office to continue to maintain one of the most successful search and rescue operations in the state. This project would receive \$20,000.

Hiring of a fire mitigation coordinator and providing administrative assistance will assist the Placer County Office of Emergency Services in accomplishing many fire planning activities currently not possible. Some of the tasks that would be possible include coordinating Fire Safe Councils' activities, coordinating activities with other counties and agencies, securing grants, and implementing fire safety programs. This project would receive \$65,000.

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May 24, 2005

For immediate release

Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012

**PLACER COUNTY LOCAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT COMMITTEE
AWARDS GRANTS TO LOCAL AGENCIES**

With the support of the Tribal Council of the United Auburn Indian Community, Placer County's Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee (LCBC) has announced its 2005 grant awards to local governments.

As prescribed by state law, the grant funds come from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund and are intended to mitigate impacts associated with tribal gaming.

Agencies awarded grants are as follows:

- City of Roseville Police Department, \$60,000, for crime reduction;
- Placer County Air Pollution Control District, \$77,000, for motor-vehicle emission reductions;
- Placer County Probation Department, \$60,000, for the day reporting center;
- City of Lincoln Police Department, \$50,000, for records management system;
- City of Rocklin Police Department, \$60,000, for automated suspect identification;
- Placer County Public Works Department, \$48,000, for road overlay project on Industrial Blvd.;
- Newcastle Fire Protection District, \$10,679.82, vehicle accident response improvement;
- City of Lincoln Police Department, \$10,000, for the Police Activities League.

"In choosing the recipients, we focused on the most important service impacts, and attempted to balance the needs in the surrounding city and county communities," said Julie A. Huff, Tribal Vice Chair and Vice Chair of LCBC. "We appreciate the cooperative approach of the governments in the area."

The Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund is based on assessments by the state on tribal gaming machines that were in place prior to 1999. Thunder Valley Casino, which is owned by the United Auburn Indian Community, did not open until 2003.

The committee received almost \$750,000 in grant applications, but had \$375,679.82 to distribute.

"It's wonderful to be able to work with the United Auburn Indian Community in helping with so many deserving projects," said Rocklin City Councilmember Brett Storey, who also chairs the LCBC.

The Local Community Benefit Committee also includes county Supervisors Robert Weygandt and Bruce Kranz, Roseville City Councilmember Rocky Rockholm, Lincoln City Councilmember Ray Sprague, and Jessica Tavares, United Auburn Indian Community Tribal Chairperson.

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For immediate release

April 15, 2005

**Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012 or
Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515**

FORESTRY EXPERT TO SPEAK IN AUBURN, CARNELIAN BAY APRIL 26

One of the nation's leading forestry experts will give a presentation titled "Solving the Wildlife Crisis: Tahoe and the Sierra" during appearances in Auburn and Carnelian Bay on Tuesday, April 26.

Dr. Thomas Bonnicksen will address the Placer County Board of Supervisors at 11 a.m. The meeting will take place in the county's Auburn administrative center, 175 Fulweiler Ave.

At 6 p.m., he will be the guest speaker at a community forum in Carnelian Bay sponsored by county Supervisor Bruce Kranz. It will be held in Garwoods Grill and Pier, 500 North Lake Blvd.

The public is invited to attend the community forum and the presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

"We are honored to have an expert like Dr. Bonnicksen visiting Placer County," Supervisor Kranz said. "His analysis of current forest conditions in the Lake Tahoe area is a wake-up call for us to do a better job maintaining a forest that is less at risk of forest fire.

"Our hearts go out to those in Southern California who lost so much in the fires. We have a duty to do our best to inform the public and support the efforts of our professional fire departments to avert similar catastrophes."

Supervisor Kranz represents the 5th District, which stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

In January, Bonnicksen spoke to the governing board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

He is a visiting professor at the University of California at Davis and professor emeritus and former head of the forest science department at Texas A&M University.

Bonnicksen serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Forestry Foundation in Auburn, is a published author and is a former ranger with the National Park Service. He has been a member of several congressional fact-finding missions, including investigations of a 1988 fire in Yellowstone National Park and the 2003 wildfires in Southern California.

Bonnicksen has a bachelor's degree in forestry, master's degree in forest ecology and doctorate in forest policy, all from the University of California at Berkeley.

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